

# Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

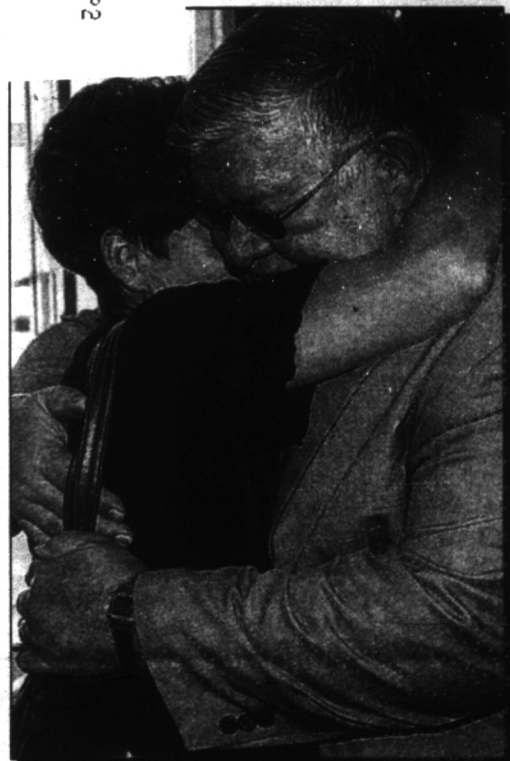
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**FEELING THE LOSS** — Bruce McDonnall (right), father of slain International Mission Board aid worker David McDonnall, is comforted by an unidentified friend during the memorial service for his son held March 20 at First Church in Lamar, Colo. (BP photo by Mike Creswell)

## Slain workers memorialized, laid to rest

DALLAS (BP) — The sole survivor of a March 15 attack on five Southern Baptist aid workers in Iraq is recuperating better than doctors expected and sent a personal message to be read at graveside services for her husband.

Carrie Taylor McDonnall underwent surgery March 24 in a Dallas-area hospital for nerve and skin grafts on her left hand and will begin physical therapy for the hand next week, according to family spokesman Van Payne. She lost three fingers on the hand during the attack.

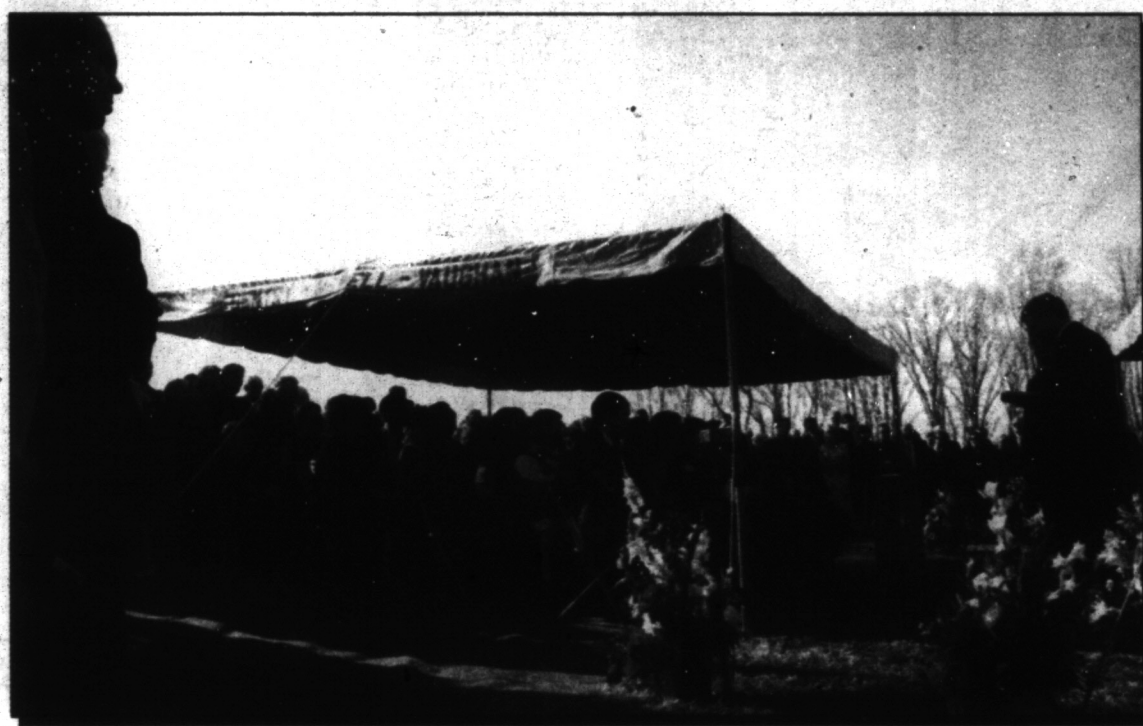
McDonnall barely survived the ambush that killed her husband David and fellow workers Larry and Jean Elliott and Karen Watson.

Her doctors are "very pleased" with her progress and moved her to a private room, Payne said.

McDonnall and her family said they had been deeply moved by the expressions of support and promises of prayer they have received from people all around the world, Payne said.

Several hundred friends, family members, and colleagues attended David McDonnall's funeral, held March 23 at the American Baptist Church where his family has been active for almost two decades. In recent years David and Carrie had become members of Travis Avenue Church, a Southern Baptist congregation in Fort Worth.

McDonnall's family took great care to explain his life: Bulletin boards outside the sanctuary presented photos and newsletters he had sent to describe his life and work in Iraq. The service opened with projected pictures from Iraq and his earlier service elsewhere in the region.



**GONE, NOT FORGOTTEN** — Stephen Rummage (far right), interim pastor of First Church in Cary, N.C., leads a March 25 graveside service for slain IMB workers Larry and Jean Elliott. (BP photo by Mike Creswell)

Dennis Bradley, pastor of First Church in Lamar, sometimes spoke through tears as he compared McDonnall's death to that of first-century martyr Stephen, whose stoning is described in Acts 7. "You and I know that David died as a martyr," he said.

...

Yvonne Lawson's fingertips caressed the crate containing the coffin of her daughter Karen Watson oblivious to the crowd collected about her, family and friends who met the plane bearing the body at Kern County's Meadows Field near Bakersfield.

"I knew it was Karen the minute I touched that box," Lawson said. "I know it sounds strange, but I could feel her. Her death wasn't real to me until then."

More than a week after her death, family and friends gathered March 26 at Bakersfield's Valley Church for her funeral. More than a thousand people filled the sanctuary. They came to grieve and remember, honor, and celebrate a life well lived.

Among them were six rows of deputies from the Kern County Sheriff's Department. They took turns, two by two, standing guard by her casket throughout the service. Watson served among them for eight years. The training she received qualified her for the work she did in Iraq.

With mountains in the distance, the body of Karen Watson was laid to rest next to her grandparents in rural Arvin.

...

Larry Elliott had a laugh so hearty it could fill the streets of Honduras or the villages of Iraq. When his wife Jean smiled, she could light up an entire nation. So said friends and family at a memorial service in Cary, N.C.

Cesar Pena, pastor of Communion Church in Honduras, and John Durham, a longtime friend of the Elliotts, had attended a memorial service for the couple the previous week in Honduras. Durham spoke of 12 Baptist churches, 92 mission points, and more than 80 water wells made possible through the Elliotts' ministry in that country.

"The Hondurans arrived in waves on buses from churches and mission points all around Honduras," Durham, pastor of First Church in Irving, Texas, reported. "There's a beautiful tapestry of people in Honduras that have been impacted by the lives of Larry and Jean Elliott," he said. "People wanted to follow them — I wanted to follow them — because they followed Jesus with a wholehearted passion."

## Mississippian remembers Elliotts' ministry

By Tony Martin  
Associate Editor

While Southern Baptists deal with the grief that comes with having four workers sacrificed as martyrs in Iraq on March 15, personally knowing one of the men involved has put the story in a different light for one Mississippi Baptist.

Jim Didlake, director of the Men's Ministry Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, had the opportunity to work with Larry Elliott, one of the four International Mission Board workers who died in the ambush near Mosul, Iraq.

Didlake worked with Elliott while Elliott and his wife Jean were serving with the International Mission Board in Honduras, their previous duty station.

"I first worked with Larry in 1994," said Didlake. "The country had suffered through flash flooding, and we traveled over the country looking at damage and determining how best to respond."

"Then, in 1998, we worked together after Hurricane Mitch, doing rebuilding



L. Elliott

and cleanup. Larry became the disaster coordinator for that area," Didlake continued. "We were also together in Guatemala for training afterwards."

According to Didlake, Elliott started out as a well driller in Honduras, and had

spent six years heading up that work.

"He was a nice guy, a big guy," said Didlake. "He really wanted to learn all that he could about disaster relief. He had worked in Texas, and was trained in water purification. He moved to Honduras to take over coordination of the purification work for the country."

Elliott had previously been to Iraq in 2003 to help with several water purification projects, but he and Jean had just returned to the strife-torn country to make a longer-term commitment to the work there.



J. Elliott

"The Elliotts were in one of the most dangerous areas of the country," said Didlake, who has himself been to Mosul in recent months. According to Didlake, Larry was very excited about the new Baghdad church start (The Baptist Record, March 18 issue). "He would've been the last to say we needed to cut and run from Iraq," Didlake said.

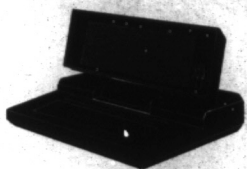
How, then, should Southern Baptists respond to such tragedies?

"God has opened doors for us," said Didlake in response. "It's not an option for us to be there. God has called us to take the message to the world. There are no safe places anymore. We can't give up just because we suffer losses."

"If the early disciples had said, 'We can't go because we're afraid for our lives,' the Gospel message would never have come to us."



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# Remember the martyrs

**T**his week just past, Southern Baptists laid to rest four more bold followers of Christ, cut down in a bloody ambush on March 15 near Mosul, Iraq. They were Larry and Jean Elliott of North Carolina; Karen Watson of California; and David McDonnall of Colorado. McDonnall's wife Carrie was seriously injured in the attack and is recovering from surgery at a Dallas hospital.

These five people were not soldiers or spies or anything else connected with the current military occupation of that Middle East country, so torn by a quarter-century of brutal dictatorship and war. They were humanitarian workers in Iraq under the auspices of the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, and at the time of the deadly attack were scouting locations for water wells.

Their deaths were barely mentioned in secular news media, just a one-minute story in the continuing saga of anarchy and lawlessness in pockets of that struggling country. The day before, civilians had been killed, and the day after, civilians were killed. Journalists, so jaded by the unceasing daily toll of death and destruction, didn't see the news value in going much farther than they did with the story.

They were special to us, though. The Elliotts had devoted a lifetime to helping the helpless, first in Honduras and then in Iraq. Karen Watson's service had begun only the year before, after she turned her life around and then dedicated it to Kingdom work. The McDonnalls — a younger version of the Elliotts, to be sure — planned on spending the rest of their lives together seeking to reach a lost world with the Good News.

Now they are gone. In keeping with

one of our Christian privileges, Southern Baptists both mourn and celebrate their passing. They were more than just a one-minute story to us, and we honor them as such. At least, most of us have.

There are church bodies among us that have failed since March 15 to mention the worker's names, even in passing during worship services and prayer meetings. These church bodies have not commemorated their lives nor offered a prayer for the family members left behind. While no scientific survey results are available to back up that contention, even one church overlooking such an important observance is an insult to the thousands of men and women who put their lives on the line for the cause of the Great Commission (Matt. 28:18-20) — and is surely a foul odor in the nostrils of God.

We are responsible for the spiritual and physical well-being of these brave men and women. They need our unceasing prayers. They need to know they are constantly on the minds of those of us back home "holding the ropes." They need to know the martyrs from within their ranks are written on our hearts forever.

A treasure trove of multimedia resources on the five workers is available free of charge at [www.imb.org](http://www.imb.org). The resources include downloadable video and audio, high-resolution digital pho-



tographs, and detailed articles. All these resources can be used during a brief time of recognition for the murdered workers.

Every Mississippi Baptist worship service should pause this Sunday, long enough to memorialize our slain brothers and sisters and offer a prayer for their loved ones left behind. After what they ultimately sacrificed on behalf of our Lord and Savior, it's the least we can do for them.

## GUEST OPINION:



### *Don't abandon BWA*

*By Michael Weeks, pastor  
Pleasant Hill Church, Olive Branch*

Professor Erich Geldbach takes issue with this accusation. He responded to a paper delivered by Ken Hemphill at a conference in Canada. At the time, Hemphill was president of Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth. He now works for the SBC Executive Committee.

Geldbach said, "Nowhere in my response is there any such foolish statement as the direct quote of the Committee implies." He described Paige Patterson, current president of Southwestern Seminary who attended the meeting, as possessing behavior "of one who distorts the truth" and "bears false witness."

Listen to other perceptions of the SBC. Brian Winslade, leader of the Baptist Churches of New Zealand, said, "I continue to be appalled at the attitude and behavior of SBC leadership." Hans Guderian, Germany, stated, "What a bad signal for the world about the unity and witness of the Baptist Christians."

BWA leaders have requested an opportunity to respond to these accusations. Currently, no such meeting has been scheduled. Morris Chapman, president and chief executive officer of the SBC Executive Committee, said there is almost no hope of reconciliation. He also stated that the vote in June might not be any different than the Committee action.

The SBC report concludes with a desire for a new fellowship of Baptists. It states, "numerous Baptist friends from around the globe have indicated their hearty interest in such a fellowship." I contacted Denton Lotz regarding this new fellowship. He said to me, "We have had no communication from any BWA member body that they are going to withdraw from the BWA. We are pleased at the tremendous support from Baptists of the world."

After reading many articles on this issue, it appears the per-

ception of the SBC is not a positive one. Some perceive us as hypocritical and power hungry.

I find it ironic that we can promote in our churches a movie written by a Roman Catholic about the last hours of Jesus, yet we can no longer cooperate with Baptists of the world. Are churches which have "community services" with other denominations guilty of "aberrant and dangerous theology?" How sad when Christians cannot work together for the common cause of the Gospel.

The BWA is not a denomination but a fellowship of Baptists of the world. It has grown to a fellowship of 211 member bodies. After a 100-year relationship with an organization Southern Baptists helped to begin, our denomination now seeks to end that relationship. Which entity or relationship will be the next one severed?

It is my prayer that Southern Baptist will vote down this recommendation to withdraw from BWA. If not, then Southern Baptists need to be prepared for reaping the whirlwind.

I suggest at this year's SBC annual meeting that we convene together and sing, "We are one in the bond of love. Let us join our hands that the world will know, we are one in the bond of love."

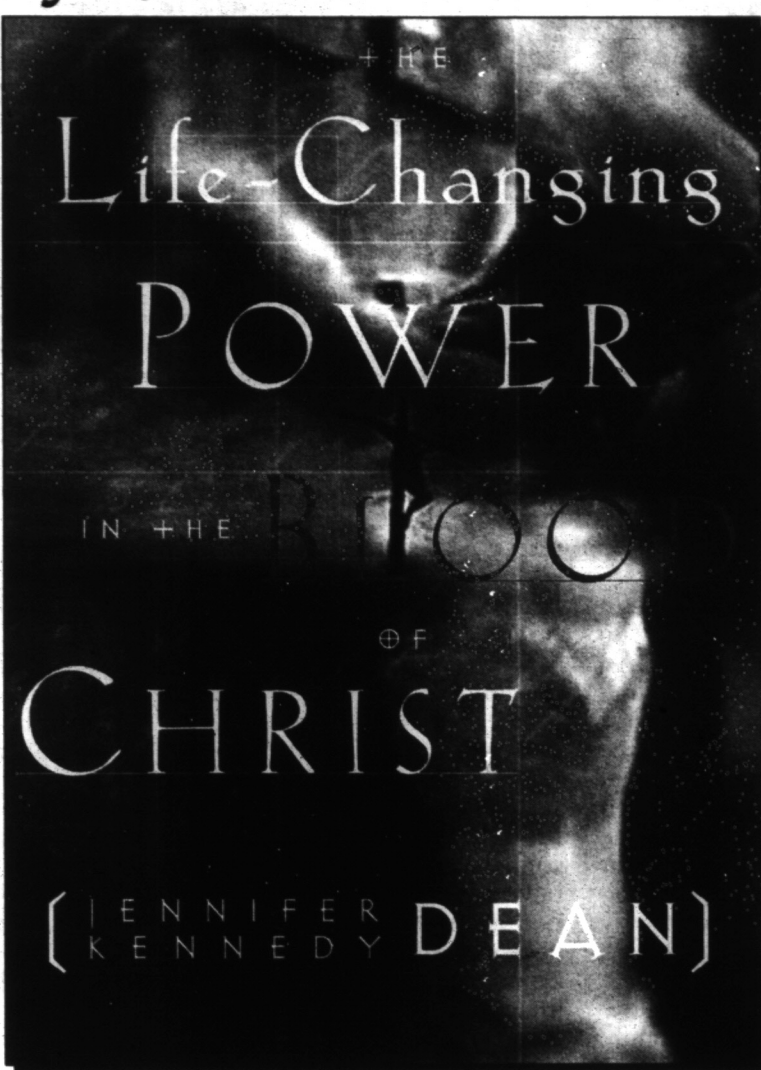


# Kennedy: Jesus' blood is 'symbol of life'

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — With the recent release of Mel Gibson's *The Passion of The Christ*, many Christians and non-Christians alike are looking deeper into the life and death of Jesus.

Some are struck speechless with awe and reverence for God's great sacrifice. Others are horrified as they watch the graphic depiction of the crucifixion of Christ.

However, viewers should not be appalled by the blood of Jesus because it is that blood that gives purpose to the entire life of Christ, according to Jennifer Kennedy Dean, author of *The Life-Changing Power in the Blood of Christ*, a new Bible study from New Hope Publishers.



## THE THREAD

"The thread that runs through the whole Scripture is that the blood is the life," Dean said. "One of the mistaken ideas that people have when they are repelled by the bloodiness of the crucifixion is that blood is a symbol of death, but the truth is that blood is a symbol of life."

"Jesus poured out His life for us so that He can pour out His life in us so that He can pour out His life through us."

Dean said there is much to understand about the blood of Christ.

"The importance of the blood does not begin when He begins to shed it on the

Cross, that's the crescendo moment," she said. "The blood has been central and active since the beginning of time. The salvation that He worked out for us did not begin at the cross but from the moment He was conceived in the womb of Mary."

## THE CURE

In her interactive, Scripture-rich Bible study, Dean says that as descendants of Adam, all people are born with a sin disease that leads to certain death and the blood of Jesus is the only cure for that disease.

"Every time Jesus faced the enemy, it was for you," Dean writes.

"Every temptation Jesus endured and triumphed over was for you. Victory by victory, the antibodies against sin were being formed."

"Encounter by encounter, your salvation was being worked out in the blood of Jesus."

## JESUS' JOB

Referring to 1 Corinthians 15:45, Dean calls Jesus the last Adam who "was tempted at each level of his humanity — body, soul and spirit."

She writes, "Jesus' job as the last Adam was to reverse, step by step, everything the first Adam did. He had to face the same challenges that confronted the first Adam, but to resist sin where the first Adam fell into sin. He regained what Adam lost."

According to Dean, in concentrating only on the saving

power of Jesus' blood, many have forgotten that it is presently and continuously cleansing us from unrighteousness.

"In 1 John we read that because of the blood of Jesus, God forgives our sins and cleanses us from all unrighteousness," she said.

"Our sins are completely forgiven in one fell swoop because of the cross. Our unrighteousness is progressively being cleansed because of the resurrection."

"So our salvation is two-layered: what Christ did for me and Who Christ is in me."

# THE BAPTIST RECORD

## SALVATION AWARENESS

Through this Bible study, Dean hopes that readers will develop a deeper appreciation for the blood that Jesus shed for them.

"I would hope that they would come to such an overwhelming awareness of the scope of their salvation that they would never take it for granted," she said. "I would hope that they would reach the conclusion that the blood of Jesus in its present and active form is the most precious gift that God can give."

**Editor's note:** *The Life-Changing Power in the Blood of Christ* is available online at [www.lifewaystores.com](http://www.lifewaystores.com). Dean, co-founder of the *Praying Life Foundation*, conducts seminars around the world addressing prayer as a relationship, and has written numerous magazine articles on prayer and spiritual development.

With three college-age sons, she and her husband Wayne live near Kansas City, Mo. For more information on Dean, see [www.prayinglife.org](http://www.prayinglife.org).

New Hope Publishers is a division of Woman's Missionary Union auxiliary of the Southern Baptist Convention.

## Looking back

### 10 years ago

Jim Henry, pastor of First Church, Orlando, ends speculation about his candidacy for president of the Southern Baptist Convention by announcing his upcoming nomination to his church — but he says, "I will not have a structured campaign effort."

### 20 years ago

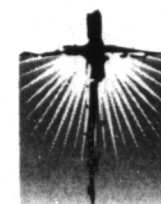
Producers of the television series *Lottery!* threaten legal action against a Southern Baptist Convention agency and one of its staff members who four months earlier had protested the show's "pro-gambling propaganda."

### 50 years ago

Liberty Church, Winston Association, completes construction of an eight-room parsonage. The church, under the leadership of Pastor Paul Wilson, has shown much progress since going full-time in January.

## China ends talks

WASHINGTON (BP) — An announcement by the United States that it will sponsor a resolution at a United Nations conference censuring China for human rights violations has prompted the communist power to react by cutting off discussions between the two governments on the subject. Members of the House of Representatives and the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom applauded the Bush administration's decision to seek passage of such a resolution criticizing China at the U.N. Human Rights Commission, now holding its annual meeting in Geneva, Switzerland. "The United States' insistence on provoking confrontation has seriously damaged the foundation of our two countries' human rights dialogue and exchange," Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister Shen Guofang told U.S. Ambassador Clark Randt on March 23, according to *The Washington Post*. "The United States should bear all the consequences that might arise from this." In addition to repressing political dissidents and killing and torturing prisoners, China is a leading persecutor of religious adherents, including evangelical Christians, Roman Catholics, Muslims, Tibetan Buddhists, and the Falun Gong sect. It also has a population control program that has resulted in coercive abortions and sterilizations in some provinces. On March 3, the House of Representatives voted 402-2 for a resolution urging the United States to promote a measure at the U.N. meeting calling for China to meet the international community's standards on human rights. Michael Young, chairman of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, praised the decision to sponsor a resolution. "The Chinese government must encourage and protect human rights affirmed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights if it seeks a credible voice in world affairs," Young said in a written release. "China has chosen to see the resolution as a confrontation, and not as a chance to demonstrate its sincerity about implementing its human rights obligations." President Bush appointed Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission in Nashville, to a panel in 2001. Land's second term will expire in May.



## MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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## Flake Celebration slated for First, Winona

All Mississippi Baptists are invited to attend the Worship Celebration of the Arthur Flake Sunday School Growth Strategy at First Church, Winona, beginning at 6:30 p.m. on April 13.

Flake, the Mississippi Baptist who pioneered Southern Baptist Sunday School work, developed his Standard Sunday School plan while in Winona. His book, *Building a Standard Sunday School*, serves as the foundation of Sunday School methodology to this day.

"As we gather at First Church, Winona, we will launch a strategy for church growth for Mississippi Baptists which we pray will change the course of life in Mississippi Baptist churches," said Michael Young, director of the Sunday School Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

For more information, contact Michael Young at First Church, Winona, 100 N. Main St., Winona, Miss. 38980. Telephone: 662-266-1297. Toll-free: 1-800-451-1297. E-mail: [youngm@firstchurchofwinona.org](mailto:youngm@firstchurchofwinona.org).



## BORROWING TROUBLE

Many people can only live in the "gloom and doom" department of life. They remember the past by its pains. They live in the present expecting problems. They can only view the future through the lens of the "worst case" scenario. At times they will refer to themselves as being practical, or maybe being realists, or even pragmatic. In reality, they are often pessimists, faithless, and under the control of fear. Regardless of the situation, they are capable of finding the dark lining in a cloud.

If, by chance, something real good is taking place and success is in sight on the horizon, they are capable of reaching far into the future or to either side of the experience, borrowing problems and dragging them into the center of the experience. I can remember, years ago, when folks used to say, "Don't go looking for trouble" or "Don't borrow trouble." Isn't it interesting how most of us are geared up to find the faults, the failures, the fumbles, and we see very little else.

On one of the most beautiful weekends of the Spring period this year, I was watching the weather forecast on a Saturday night. The weather had been gorgeous, the

temperature had been in the low 70's, the humidity was almost non-existent, and the report was that Sunday was going to be a carbon copy. In fact, it appeared as though the

conditions were right for the same weather to exist on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday! But, look out folks, because it looks like at this point we'll have a slight chance for rain next Saturday — at this point about a 20% chance of rain.

In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus addressed our daily approach to life. In Matthew 6:34 He said, "Take therefore no thought for the morrow, for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof." Now that verse follows the great Kingdom verse that says, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you." Jesus tells us to live today for God; enjoy the blessings of today with God; and, don't miss out on the blessings that God has for you today by reaching into the troubles of tomorrow. There will be enough problems



## Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

tomorrow and next week to deal with when we get there.

Now, some folks work themselves into a cocoon of crisis and can only see the flashing red signs that say, "Something bad could happen!" Sure it could, for every door of opportunity could be an opening to failure. At the same time, it could have at its entry way a welcome mat to great success. I suppose the saddest thing that happens to a person who begins to fall prey to negativity and lack of faith is that they continue to go deeper and deeper into that thought process and into that spiritual void to the point where they can hardly get out. Every thing they do is laced with doubt and worry. To some point, their thoughts and their speech becomes self-fulfilling prophecy and they wonder why there is never any good and always so much bad.

I often think about the fellow who was traveling on a lonely

country road out in the middle of nowhere and he had a flat tire on his car. As he began to scramble around in the trunk to find all of the equipment needed to change the tire, he found the spare and the lug wrench, but someone had taken the jack out of his car. Now what? He remembered that maybe several miles back down the road he had passed an old farmhouse. So, he decided to strike out walking to see if they had a car jack he could borrow. As he walked along in the hot sun he began to think, "There probably won't be anybody at home!" Still, with no better option, he kept on walking.

Then his thoughts shifted to, "If there is somebody there, I doubt if they will have a jack!" But again, he overcame that thought and kept on walking. As he got closer to the house the thought hit him, "If there is somebody there and if they do have a jack, they probably will not let me borrow it!" Yet, since he was near the house, he walked on up to the front door and knocked on it. Sure enough a man came to the door and the fel-

low with the flat tire blurted out in his face, "I didn't want to borrow your 'ole jack anyway!" He turned around and walked off.

How can we possibly get out of a situation surrounded by walls and overlaid with a roof of trouble and problems and never see the grand goodness of God? I'm convinced that it begins and continues with turning to God, much like when Paul pointed the young preacher, Timothy, to the Lord and he said, "God hath not given us the spirit of fear." Think about that! It is not God who instills within us the fear and uncertainty about the future, or about folks, or about our failures, or maybe even about our family. No, God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of love and power and a sound mind. How glorious life becomes when you focus your attention on love. God intends for us to share His love and to be the recipients of love. It is a healthy thing.

God wants us to look and see His mighty hand at work around us. If you do not see Him, you have no reason to be positive and no way to have hope. God wants us to be people with sound minds and right thinking. God-honoring thoughts change the way we think about everything.

Stop borrowing burdens and begin borrowing blessings!

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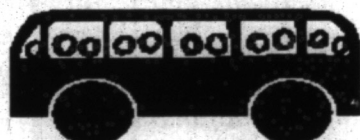
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## 1119 Mississippi Churches Can't Be Wrong.

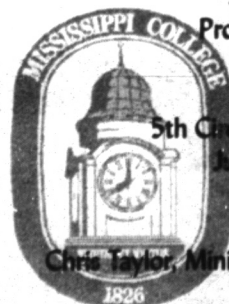
More than 1100 churches throughout Mississippi put their faith in Wellington Associates for comprehensive insurance services including property, general, and specific liability, vehicle, workers compensation, and other coverages. Wellington guarantees a quality program, customized for your ministry, at the most competitive premium rates.

For references and more information, call Mike Brooks at 601-420-0174 or 1-800-442-0290.



Please join us for a  
Community Wide Prayer Breakfast  
Anderson Hall, B.C. Rogers Student Center,  
Mississippi College

Good Friday, April 9, 2004  
Serving begins at 7:00 a.m.  
Program from 7:30 — 8:30 a.m.



Comedian, Speaker  
5th Circuit United States Court of Appeals  
Judge Charles W. Pickering, Sr.  
Music will be directed by  
Chris Taylor, Minister of Music at New Horizon Baptist Church

Breakfast Buffet \$10.00

Tickets can be purchased in the Christian Development Office,  
Room 101 Nelson Hall, Mississippi College  
& the Clinton Chamber of Commerce

For questions or more information, please call  
(601) 925-3235 or E-mail mcole@mc.edu

#### MISSISSIPPI POSITIONS

**CASTLEWOODS BAPTIST CHURCH** in Brandon, MS is seeking a mature christian individual or couple to make a long-term commitment to serve as youth leader(s) on a bi-vocational basis. Please mail your resume to: 175 Stonecastle Drive, Brandon, MS 39047 or email paula@castlewoodsbbaptist.com.

**GRANDVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH**, 900 S. Pearson Road, Pearl, Miss., seeks bi-vocational minister of music. Call (601) 939-4215.

**SEEKING PART-TIME MINISTER** of music and youth for Furr's Baptist Church, Pontotoc, Miss. Please send resumes to Bobbie Jagers, 5279 Hwy 6 E, Pontotoc, MS 38863.

**PINE GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH**, (Coffeeville, Yalobusha County) is seeking a pianist. Obligations will primarily include music for two Sunday worship services and adult choir practice. Other opportunities for service will occur from time to time. Interested persons should contact James Caulder at (662) 628-8104.

**ORGANIST NEEDED: SEMINARY BAPTIST Church**, Seminary, Mississippi. For information call (601) 722-3248 or (601) 722-4336. Send any correspondence to Bill Hall, Seminary Baptist Church, P.O. Box 81, Seminary, MS 39479.

**CHILDREN/YOUTH DIRECTOR:** local Methodist church in need of children/youth director. Duties include Wednesday and Sunday night activities, in addition to planning summer Bible school program. Salary negotiable based upon experience and qualifications. Send resume to: Joe Lofton, 912 Fox Run Road, Meridian, MS 39305.

**WEST LAUREL BAPTIST CHURCH**, is accepting applications for full-time pastor. Masters degree and five (5) years experience preferred. Send resume and letter of interest to: West Laurel Baptist Church, 1400 W. 5th Street, Laurel, MS 39440, attn: Mel Odom, by May 29, 2004.



What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

# HOUSE TOPS

Matthew 10:27 NAS

April 1, 2004

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

## LAD/CRUSADER DAY 2004

**APRIL 26, 2004**

**9 A.M.-2 P.M.**

**CENTRAL HILLS BAPTIST RETREAT, KOSCIUSKO**

**COST: \$4**

**BRING A SACK LUNCH (DRINK WILL BE PROVIDED)**

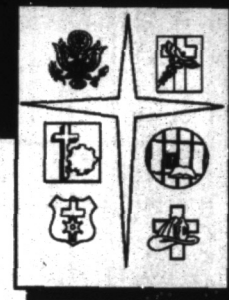
**REGISTER EARLY!**

**DEADLINE: APRIL 19**



*Come and meet  
our missionaries*

For more info, contact Men's Ministry at 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3335



## Chaplain's Spring Retreat Gulfshore, April 23-24

Mississippi Baptist Chaplain's Assoc. Spring Retreat

**"The Careful Life" Ephesians 5:15**

**LEADER:** Charles E. Poole, director of LifeShare Foundation in Jackson. The ministries of LifeShare offer help and hope to some of Mississippi's families who are in need most. He was the former pastor of Northminster Baptist Church.

There is no **COST** for members/spouses of the association. For non-members the cost is \$50 per person.

We will begin **REGISTRATION** at 2 p.m. on Friday, April 23, with a seafood supper at 5:30 p.m., and conclude after lunch on Saturday, April 24.

If you would like **MORE INFORMATION** about the Chaplain's Association or attending the Spring Retreat, please call Elaine Smith, Evangelism Department, MBCB, 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3278, or E-mail: [esmith@mbcb.org](mailto:esmith@mbcb.org).

## Leaders

**H.B. London, Jr.** - vice president of Ministry Outreach/Pastoral Ministries for Focus on the Famil.

**Lew King** - minister of music at FBC, Byram

### Child Care

Supervised care will be made available for preschoolers, children and youth.

### Reservation and Registration

- Participation is unlimited, but **the on-site housing is limited to the first hundred (100) couples who register** for this retreat. This number is based on the available private accommodations at Gulfshore.
- Registration must be made with Gulfshore.

### Cost

2 nights lodging and 6 meals:

- Adults: \$97.75 per person
- Ages 12 & up: \$56.55 per person
- Ages 2-11: \$33.28 per person
- Age 2 and under: no cost

There is no conference fee.  
Gulfshore accepts VISA and MasterCard.

## Pastor and Wife Retreat

For more info, contact the Pastor/Leadership Development Department at 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3305.

## SINGLE ADULTS

**"With  
Gladness &  
Singleness  
of Heart"**

(Acts 2: 46 KJV)

For information  
contact Jamie  
at 662-335-3294

## Delta Hills Singles Coffeehouse

**Friday, April 30  
Immanuel BC  
Greenville**  
Straight X Building  
6:30 - 9:00 p.m.

**MUSIC:** Stacy Andrews,  
minister of  
College & 20 Somethings  
Ridgecrest BC, Madison

**HUMOROUS SPEAKER:**  
Gary Jackson, pastor & "CW"  
on WFCA Radio  
French Camp

**Cost:** \$5 payable at the door,  
includes coffee, desserts and  
child care

For information contact Jamie  
at 662-335-3294



## State Bible Drill - 2004



### STATE BIBLE DRILLS 2004

Date	Location	Registration	Drills Begin
TUESDAY	Brookhaven, FBC	2-4:30 p.m.	2:30 p.m.
April 13	Greenwood, FBC	2-4:30 p.m.	2:30 p.m.
THURSDAY	Tupelo, Harrisburg	2-4:30 p.m.	2:30 p.m.
April 15	Tupelo, FBC	2-4:30 p.m.	2:30 p.m.
FRIDAY	Starkville, FBC	2-4:30 p.m.	2:30 p.m.
April 16	Columbus, FBC	2-4:30 p.m.	2:30 p.m.
SATURDAY	Madison, Ridgecrest BC	8:30-noon	9 a.m.
April 17	Clinton, FBC	8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.	9 a.m.
MONDAY	Hattiesburg, Temple BC	2-4:30 p.m.	2:30 p.m.
April 19	(west campus) Meridian, FBC	2-4:30 p.m.	2:30 p.m.
TUESDAY	Laurel, Salem Heights BC	2-4:30 p.m.	2:30 p.m.
April 20			
THURSDAY	Gulfport, FBC	2-4:30 p.m.	2:30 p.m.
April 22	Batesville, FBC	2-4:30 p.m.	2:30 p.m.
SATURDAY	Selection Tournaments		
April 24	Jackson, Alta Woods BC		
	Youth Speakers Tournament	9:30-9:45 a.m.	10 a.m.
	Youth Junior High Tournament	12:15-1 p.m.	1 p.m.
	Scholarship Tournament	1:30-1:45 p.m.	2 p.m.

Call your Baptist associational office for the date and location for your Associational Drill.

CHURCH PAKS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE DISCIPLESHIP & FAMILY MINISTRY DEPARTMENT.

CALL 1-800-748-1651 IF YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED YOUR CHURCH PAK.



## Heavenly View of Grandparenting

Tuesday, April 27  
Northcrest BC, Meridian  
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Speaker: Joe Sherrer  
Professor, NOBTS  
Five Conferences

\$5 payable at the door

For more info, call Max at 601-482-3498

Discipleship and Family Ministry Department

## Senior Adult Life Pleasing to God

## 2004 Senior Adult Retreats



Senior Adult I Retreat  
May 11-14

Guest Speaker:  
Russell Newport  
Missouri

Senior Adult II Retreat  
May 17-19

Guest Speaker:  
Henry Lyons  
Alabama

Senior Adult III Retreat  
May 20-22

Guest Speaker:  
Jimmy Miles  
Virginia

Senior Adult IV Retreat  
October 12-14

Guest Speaker:  
Bill Causey  
Mississippi

For more information, contact the  
Discipleship and Family Ministry Department  
at 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3283.



## Sunday School Directors' Workshops

Monday, June 7  
18th Ave. Baptist Church, Hattiesburg

Tuesday, June 8  
Belden Baptist Church, Tupelo  
6:30-8:30 p.m.

### Additional Sunday School Director Training events

- May 18 FBC, Starkville
- May 18 Emmanuel BC, Grenada
- May 24 FBC, Gulfport
- May 24 Easthaven BC, Brookhaven
- May 25 Northcrest BC, Meridian
- May 25 Highland Colony BC, Ridgeland
- June 2 North Oxford BC, Oxford

Times in all locations: 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Each church represented will receive training in the use of the Coach's Guide for Sunday School. These conferences will be led by the Sunday School Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

For more info, call the Sunday School Department at 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3291.

Both of these conferences will be led by Wayne Etheridge, a Sunday School/FAITH specialist from LifeWay Church Resources in Nashville. He served as a Sunday School director, minister of education, and pastor before going to Nashville to serve in the Sunday School Department. Wayne's specialties are in the area of organizing and growing a Sunday School.

Each church represented will receive a copy of

A Coach's Guide to Sunday School  
A Sunday School Director's Manual.

## July 1-5 Gulfshore Baptist Assembly

## HeariSong

### Choral Director

Suzanne Cain  
Mt. Zion BC  
Columbus



### Camp Pastor

Jim Cain  
Mt. Zion BC  
Columbus



The Music and  
Workshops  
for  
7-12 grades

For info,  
contact Church  
Music Department  
at 1-800-748-1651  
or 601-292-3267

Choral Singing  
Signing  
Drama  
Handbells  
Playing Instruments  
Voice  
Keyboard  
Guitar  
Part-singing  
Interpretive  
Movement



## SuperSummer

MISSISSIPPI  
July 12-16, 2004

featuring

### What is Super Summer?



Fred D. Lynch  
Worship Leader



Chris Davis  
Music Leader

### Super Summer is:

- twenty hours of discipleship/evangelism training
- a week of challenge for students to learn how to "penetrate their culture"
- creative, interactive and incredible
- a "don't miss" opportunity
- leadership ... envisioning how your choices and actions today may influence you tomorrow

### Guidelines for all students

1. Demonstrates leadership qualities and is a growing Christian.
2. Faithful involvement in worship, Sunday School, and Wednesday night youth activities.
3. Complete at least one level of a discipleship study (i.e. DiscipleGroup, DiscipleNow...).
4. Memorized a minimum of 10 scripture verses relating to discipleship, evangelism, or a disciple study.
5. Share their personal testimony with the youth group.
6. Share the Gospel with at least one person this year.
7. Completed at least the 8th grade in 2004, but not yet in college.
8. Agree to attend all SS sessions.
9. Journal how you are growing in your walk with Christ (i.e. prayer, scripture memorization, struggles, joys, etc.).
10. First year students: you must be involved in a "small group" study or accountability group prior to Super Summer.
11. Second year students: express in 100 words or less your level of commitment to Christ and how you are involved in leadership in your church and community. Please give to your youth minister.

If you have any questions about these guidelines, please give us a call, and we will try to help you in any way that we can. Super Summer is an incredible experience, and we want to do all we can to keep that standard high. These guidelines help in many ways. Thanks for your attention to the details of these guidelines.

### TO REQUEST A REGISTRATION PACKET

Call us at 1-800-748-1651, ext.283, or E-mail us at [redwards@mbcb.org](mailto:redwards@mbcb.org)



Pray this day for...

April 2 - 15, 2004

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

*"The greatest expression of patriotism is prayer."*  
Dr. Lloyd Ogilvie, former Chaplain U.S. Senate

The church in Egypt still thinks a church building is necessary to have a church. Government permission to build is needed, but not often granted, and is denied for former Muslims. Pray that Alexandria believers will plant churches without buildings so that former Muslims can meet.

For: (1) Easter - Pray that the whole world can know the hope that comes with the resurrection of Jesus; (2) Thank God for several little girls from Nepal who saw the "Jesus" film at a Christian worker's house. They want to see it again. Pray that they will believe in Jesus and follow Him as they grow.

In January the "Jesus" film was shown to several hundred employees of a local factory in Suzhou, China. Please pray for the follow-up activities now underway and the Bible study groups that have been started at this factory, asking that they will emerge into churches.

On Monday afternoons, missionary Donna Mae Bobby meets with a group of children under a tree in the little town of Quebradilla de Pánuco where there is no church. Pray for Donna Mae as she shares, and pray for a new church to be started in this small town of northern Chile.

Pray for 20 young women who graduated in February from the School of Nursing at Bangalore Baptist Hospital in India. Some of these are new believers, and some are growing spiritually. Pray that as they care for patients, they will also share Jesus with them.

For: (1) Arthur Flake Celebration, FBC, Winona, TBA (SS); (2) Bible Drills: FBC, Brookhaven; FBC, Greenwood; 2:30 - 3:30 p.m., (D&FM); (3) Pray to pray for Chief Minister Orlando Smith of the British Virgin Islands (northeastern West Indies).

For (1) Baptist Building AT HOME DAYS, 7th - 9th; (2) Missionary Lisa Taylor asks us to pray for new works in Zana and Nuevo Mexico as they study the "Yes, We Can" church-planter training material. Pray that God will raise up leaders who will be willing to start new works.

D., a national partner, was invited into a local high school in Burundi to give training on how to start churches. Praise God! Over 40 students and teachers prayed to receive Jesus and three new groups/churches have been started. Pray for these new Christians and their new work.

Along coastal Tanzania there are nearly one million Muslim of the Zaramo people. More than half have never had a chance to hear the name of Jesus. Pray that the darkness be dispelled with the light of the gospel message. Also pray for new Christians who face rejection and persecution from their families and villages.

For: (1) Bible Drills: Harrisburg BC, Tupelo; FBC, Tupelo (D&FM); (2) Forty Muslims gathered with Christian workers in an Indian city. For several hours, they asked questions about the Christian faith and engaged in open dialogue. Pray for these 40 as they continue to inquire, and as decisions are made about faith in Jesus.

For: (1) Leadership Training Conference, Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Pass Christian (CLGM); (2) Please pray today for President Domitien Ndayizeye of Burundi (central Africa, east of Democratic Republic of the Congo).

Michael and Michelle Dean, Needham, Mass., minister and reach out to international students in Boston. Pray that more Christians will befriend internationals and share Jesus with them. Pray for God to bless the Deans with many opportunities to share.

Jerry Yates is director of missions in Stockton, Calif. Pray for the follow-up to the migrant ministries "Feeding Those Who Feed Us" project. Pray for two mission churches as they move to constituted churches. Pray for church plantings that are planned for 2004.

Sara Grim, Unbound Student Ministries-Taiwan Team missionary in Kaohsiung, asks for prayer for seekers, JU, SU, CA and JA that they will continue to seek God and to know Him personally. Pray that God will reveal Himself to them, and that they will trust Him.



Please take a moment to send a card to encourage the children of our missionaries!

For security, cards will be forwarded. Please send all to:  
Child's name and parent's name  
MBCB  
Stewardship Dept.  
PO Box 530  
Jackson MS 39205

**PLEASE NOTE**  
Church members may send a package of cards altogether; cards do not have to be sent individually to Stewardship.

## 2004 Preaching & Worship Conference

Trinity Baptist Church  
Southaven, Monday, April 26

First Baptist Church  
Brookhaven, Tuesday, April 27

**Preaching from the New Testament**



Ken Hemphill



Blake Scafidel

For more info, call the Pastoral/Leadership Development Department at 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3305

- 2-89 MISS REBEKAH C. CLARK  
Parents: Richard & Wanda  
Church Planting: Central & Eastern Europe
- 3-86 MR. JOEL T. MARTIN  
Parents: William & Cynthia  
General Evangelism: Western South America
- 3-86 MISS LAUREN E. MCCALL  
Parents: Dennis & Margaret McCall  
Agriculture: Eastern Africa
- 6-86 MISS CHARISSA B. HEARON  
Parents: Thomas & Bonnie Hearon  
Student Evangelism: Western Europe
- 12-96 MISS AUDREY L. YOUNG  
Parents: Steven & Laura  
Student Evangelism: Middle America
- 14-03 MISS SOPHIA M. HATHCOCK  
Parents: Kenneth & Kimberly  
Student Evangelism: Central & Eastern Europe
- 18-83 MR. ROSS E. KYZAR  
Parents: John Russell & Melinda  
Strategy: Central & Eastern Europe
- 22-94 MISS MARY K. YOUNG  
Parents: Steven & Laura  
Student Evangelism: Middle America
- 24-97 MR. LUCAS W. BRASWELL  
Parents: Larry & Alicia  
General Evangelism: Eastern South America
- 26-89 MR. LAWRENCE W. BRASWELL, II  
Parents: Larry & Alicia  
General Evangelism: Eastern South America
- 28-89 MISS CHARISSA L. FORTENBERRY  
Parents: Robert & Margaret  
General Evangelism: Southern Africa

HOUSE TOPS.



## JUST FOR THE RECORD



Bellevue Church Ground Breaking, Thaxton

Bellevue Church, Thaxton, held a groundbreaking ceremony February 29 for a sanctuary addition and more Sunday school rooms. Pictured (from left) are Steve Carr, David Patton, C.W. White, Donald White, Floyd Gardner, Gerald Brown, Tim Williams, and Tommy Inmon, pastor.

Liberty Church, Liberty, ordained Kendall Causey and Cary Steen as deacons February 22. Liberty Church added D.M. Dixon, Jr. and Donald Chase to the deacon body.

Macedonia Church, Meridian, recently held a deacon ordination service for Mark Smith, Steve Smith, and Lee Dean. Pictured (from left) are Mark Smith, Steve Smith, Jason Gross, pastor, Dean, and Eddie Copeland.

Diamondhead Church, Diamondhead, will hold its



Macedonia Church Deacons, Meridian

second annual retreat at Gulf Shore Baptist Assembly, near Pass Christian, beginning at 5 p.m. on April 30 and continuing May 1 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Jim Futral will lead this retreat on discipleship training. The retreat concludes on May 2 with services at 8:30 and 11 a.m. and Bible Study at 9:45 a.m. Cost for the retreat will be \$20/adult; \$15/youth; and \$10/child. Contact (228) 255-3348 to register.

The Greens, Boone, N.C., will be in concert at Antioch Church, Neshoba County, April 4 at 10:45 a.m. A love offering will be received. For more information, call (601) 986-8771.

Moselle Memorial Church, Moselle, will present the Squire Parsons Trio in concert April 11 at 6 p.m. Keith Thompson, pastor, invites the public to attend. Admission is free, but a love offering will be taken.

The Professors will have a 30 year reunion gospel singing April 9 at 7 p.m. at Moselle Memorial Church, Moselle. Admission is free. A love offering will be taken to assist with the expenses of a mission trip and to help purchase Bibles for children in Romania.

First Church, Edinburg, will hold a Campmeeting and Bible Conference, April 8-9. Service times are Thursday at 7 p.m. and Friday at 9-12 a.m. and 7 p.m. Evangelists Donnie Guy, Don Savell, and Randall Creel will be speaking. Randall and Brenda Creel will present music. Billy Henry is pastor. For more information, call (601) 267-4250 or (601) 469-0128.

Clear Branch Church, Florence, will sponsor the Willie Mae McKinley Benefit Golf Tournament April 8 at Bay Pointe Country Club, Brandon. Tee off is at 8 a.m. and lunch will be served after the tournament. Four person scramble is \$50 per player. For more information, call (601) 573-0353 or (601) 573-0995.

Fernwood Church, Gulfport, will hold Holy Week events April 5-11. Times are Monday at 6 p.m.; Thursday at 7 p.m.; Friday at 7 p.m.; and Sunday at 9 a.m., 9:45 a.m., and 11 a.m. Jim Kultau is pastor. For more information, call (228) 896-4556.

## REVIVALS & HOMECOMINGS

**Tylertown, Tylertown:** Revival April 18-21; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Archie Herrin, AMD Tri-County Baptist Mission, Columbia, evangelist; Hugh Plunkett, Clarksdale, Clarksdale, music; Michael Glenn, pastor.

**Harmony, Carroll County:** Homecoming April 25; worship, 10:30 a.m.; Ken Gower, pastor; Bob Moore, special message; Nicki Philley, music; cemetery association meeting and dinner on the ground to follow; for more information, call (662) 455-6012.

**Crosby, Crosby:** Homecoming April 4; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.; a covered dish luncheon will follow; Thorn Lear, former pastor, guest speaker; Raymond Steele, Gloster, music; all are welcome; John Hollowell, pastor.

**Escatawpa, Escatawpa:** Revival April 11-15; Len Turner, evangelist; Ronnie Cottingham, music; Greg Johnston, pastor.

**Plainway, Laurel:** Homecoming April 4; worship, 11 a.m.; Harold Ishee, former pastor, preaching; lunch will be served; all former members and friends are invited.

**Ramah, Franklin County:** Homecoming April 18; 175th anniversary; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; a covered dish dinner and special music will follow; David McGuffee, preaching; proceeds go to the cemetery fund; Gordan Coker, pastor.

**Pearson, Pearl:** Revival April 4-7; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 6:30 p.m.; Gary Bowlin, Summit, evangelist; Steve Walker, Pinola, music evangelist; Scott Jones, pastor; for more information, call (601) 939-3618.

**Stanton, Natchez:** Revival April 11; Sunrise service, 7 a.m.; breakfast, 8 a.m.; Sunday School, 9 a.m.; worship, 10 a.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; nursery will be provided; James E. Messer, Theodore, Ala., evangelist; Price Harris, Shreveport, La., music; Steve Purvis, pastor; for more information, call (601) 442-4926.

Mississippi

LEADS THE NATION IN HEART DISEASE.

More than 50% of Mississippi deaths related to heart disease occur in women.

For many women, a first heart attack is fatal because symptoms and risk factors went without attention.

More frighteningly, only 8% of women even realize that heart disease is a significant health risk to women.

Call 1-800-948-6262 or 948-6262 for your \$25 Heart Screening.

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www.mbhs.org



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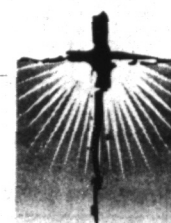
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# FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

## Suffering Savior

Matthew 27:27-31, 35-37, 50-51; 1 John 4:7-10

By Patsy Foster

Even after watching scores of movies on the subject, and reading the Gospels over and over, I still cannot fathom the indignity, the shame endured by God's Son on earth, stripped naked, flogged, spat on, struck in the face, garlanded with thorns (The Jesus I Never Knew by Philip Yancey).

Jesus could have called more than twelve legions of angels to rescue Him, yet He...for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame (Hebrews 12:2). He was wrongly accused, rejected, beaten repeatedly, and stripped in front of about 600 soldiers. He, the King of Glory, was treated like a joke. From those He came to seek and to save, He received a crown of thorns, a purple robe,

and a reed for a scepter as they bowed mockingly before Him and taunted, "Hail, King of the Jews!" "They spat on him as if he were scum. Isaiah had prophesied in Chapter 53 that our Savior would be despised and rejected of men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.

Grief and sorrow touch every life. Sometimes it comes from the death of a loved one. Other times it comes from humiliating circumstances which leave us feeling naked, rejected, and vulnerable. Multiply those feelings hundreds of times over and realize the intense hatred that was shown to our Lord. The crowd shouted angry and hate-filled words that pierced His soul as



Foster

deeply as the physical pain pierced his flesh. He, the Lamb of God, who came to take away the sins of the world, was viciously nailed to the cross on Golgotha's hill to suffer a death assigned to the worst criminals. He left the splendor of Heaven, knowing His destiny, was the lonely hill of Golgotha, there to lay down his life for me. "If that isn't love, then the ocean is dry..." (song by Dottie Rambo). When a heart loves, it is more easily broken. With a heavy heart, Jesus hung on the cross weak, pierced, thirsty, and reviled as the soldiers cast lots for his garments. Above his head was written the accusation, "This is Jesus the King of the Jews" (Matt. 27:37). In anguish as He took our sins upon Himself, He cried out to His Father, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" When Jesus died, the veil in the temple

was rent in two from the top to the bottom. The partition was broken between God and man. Hebrews 10 says that we now have "...boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh" (verses 19 and 20).

Who can fathom such wonderful love that Christ has extended to us? Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins (1 John 4:10). Someone once said, "I'm not valuable because I love God, but because He loves me." We should and can be brimming over with the love of God. John exhorts us, "Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God, and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God" (1 John 4:7). In the next verse John states that if we love not, we know not God, because He is love. There are

ample opportunities in our lives each day to reflect the love of God. Sometimes He gives us an opportunity to turn the other cheek and pray, "Father, forgive them." Sometimes He sends a stranger in need across our path and we are able to share the love of Christ in a practical way. There are so many hurting people in our world, and some of them might be rude to you. What will you give them in return? Will you give them hope and love and point them to the Christ of Calvary?

"O soul, are you weary and troubled? No light in the darkness you see? There's light for a look at the Savior, and life more abundant and free! Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in His wonderful face, and the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace" (song by Helen H. Lemmel).

Foster is member of Murphy Creek Church, Louisville.

# EXPLORE THE BIBLE

## Wealth

1 Timothy 3:6 - 21

By Bobby McKay

Located in downtown Grenada are the offices of the North Central Baptist Association. If you ever have the opportunity to visit, you should. No, the world's largest tomato isn't located there, nor will you be able to find any historic artifacts. There is, however, a small sign in the office of the ministry assistant that is of great value. It reads, "Working for the Lord sure doesn't pay much, but the retirement plan is out of this world." While I was serving as pastor in my first church in Grenada, I always found that sign to be both humorous and accurate. The more one thinks about the truth of its message the more one should realize that it is truly a marvelous thing to work for the Kingdom! As we study the lesson together this

week entitled, Wealth, don't be guilty of thinking this lesson doesn't apply to you because you don't have a lot of money or great riches on this earth. We will see in this chapter that we should be thankful for what we have, and acknowledge as Christians our real treasure is not in this life, but the life to come.

### I. RESULTS OF GREED (6:3-10)

All of us at one time or another have joked that if the Lord chose to bless us with wealth we would accept the burden. What we fail to realize so many times is the great number of individuals and families that have been ruined by the desire for more money. In verses three and four Paul revisits a familiar theme in 1 Timothy: false doctrine. One major difference we see here in



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verses four through six is the outcome of erroneous teachings.

Some in our churches argue that doctrine isn't all that important. I strongly disagree. One of the chief reasons the Lord continues to bless us as Southern Baptists is that we have remained passionate and steadfast in our quest to be "people of the Book." If our seminaries and pastors ever lose the zeal to teach and preach Bible doctrine, we might as well close up shop and go home.

Verses four and five paint a scary picture of a person that is against the teachings of Jesus Christ. Do you realize that if a person truly believes and practices the Bible as His Word he or she will not be a trouble maker?

Think about it: humility, forgiveness, and love would become second nature to the person that always went to the Bible for counsel and direction. That is just one reason why accurate doctrine is so essential in the life of the local church. You have always

heard that you can't take it with you when you go. Well guess what — according to verse seven the old saying is true. When the life of Donald Trump or Ted Turner has come to an end, they will be just as dead as the guy that made it through life financially by the skin of his teeth. Verse 10 has got to be one of the most misquoted verses in all the Scriptures. It reads, "For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil" (HCSB). Notice the word love. It doesn't say that money is the root of all evil; it says that the love of it is. It even says in the close of the verse that some have departed from the ways of God to pursue monetary fulfillment. There is nothing wrong with money; there is nothing wrong with being wealthy if you acquired it honestly. The problem many people face is the consuming lust for more and more. This is called greed, and it can consume even the best of Christians.

### II. REMINDERS TO TIMOTHY (6:11-21)

Paul closes this small book with a few reminders to his son in the ministry, Timothy. He tells him to pursue those things that are worth pursuing. So many times in the Christian walk we get bogged down with the things that have no eternal value. Satan has done the majority of his work through Christians that care more about themselves than seeing people saved and Christ exalted. Don't get me wrong, some things are worth fighting for! Paul tells us to fight the good fight and stand up for the King of Kings. Make sure the battle you are fighting is a hill worth dying on!

In verses 17 through 21 Paul finishes this book with two instructions. First, if you are rich, realize that God above has blessed you with everything. Secondly, avoid the useless gossip and talk that has ruined countless numbers of lives.

Isn't it great to know that the Bible is still relevant (and always will be) in our ever-changing world?

McKay is pastor of Spring Hill Church, Waterford.

## Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. News items submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, double-spaced on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (b) neatly printed on standardized newsprint by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail only. Due to increasing virus threats, attachments will be accepted only if they are permitted.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts

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# THE VILLAGE VIEW



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## Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of **The Village View** is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

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## Helping to prevent child abuse



**PREVENTING CHILD ABUSE** — Celeste Cade of The Baptist Children's Village fills a van with over 2000 crosses. These were provided to The BCV by Mary Ann and Don Couples of The Tennessee Baptist Children's Home in Brentwood, Tennessee.

The Baptist Children's Village has partnered with the Christian Action Commission as we step out among Mississippi Baptists to be leaders in the state of Mississippi in the prevention of child abuse. During the month of April nearly 2000 crosses will be placed by the BCV on the India Nunnery Campus in Jackson to recognize and honor the children that die annually as a result of child abuse in our nation. You will also notice this month that all five of The BCV campuses will be decorated with blue ribbons and banners in support of child abuse prevention. Furthermore, Lamar Advertising has donated the use of 50 billboards throughout the state to increase awareness of child abuse. On April 25, Child Abuse Prevention Sunday in our Mississippi Baptist Churches, we join us by wearing your blue ribbons and educating your church on how they can help prevent child abuse in Mississippi.

For more information on child Abuse Prevention please contact:  
The Baptist Children's Village  
Chrystelle Thames, Public Relations  
(601) 922-2242  
cthames@baptistchildrensvillage.com  
The Christian Action Commission  
Dr. Lee Yancey, Consultant  
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N LENH WSJUTMUJ  
KGWM VMK, WSEW VJ  
LSEZZ HNJ NG VMKU  
LNGL: TMU NT VJ  
AJZNJPJ GMW WSEW N  
EQ SJ, VJ LSEZZ HNJ NG  
VMKU LNGL.  
BMSG JNRSW: WFJG-  
WVTMKU

Clue: H = D

Have fun with cryptography  
and exercise your Bible knowl-  
edge. A King James Version  
Bible verse has been encoded  
by letter substitution. The same  
letter is substituted throughout  
the puzzle. Solve by trial and  
error. Answer to last week's  
puzzle: John 8:46

# Culture clash exposed at Senate hearing

WASHINGTON (BP) — Speaking before the Senate Judiciary Committee March 23, two prominent African-American leaders disagreed as to whether there are parallels between the homosexual rights movement and the civil rights movement.

The hearing focused on arguments for and against a constitutional marriage amendment and featured testimony from political and legal experts from both sides of the issue.

Rep. John Lewis (D.-Ga.), an African-American who spoke at the 1963 March on Washington, said he supports the legalization of same-sex marriage. "Discrimination is discrimination," he said.

Richard Richardson, pastor of an African Methodist Episcopal Church in the Boston area, disagreed. He serves as the director of political affairs for The Black Ministerial Alliance of Greater Boston.

"You can't compare what the gay and lesbian community [is] going through today to what the African-American people went through [with] their struggle to gain their rights," Richardson said.

Including Lewis, three legislators spoke to the panel, as well as four law experts. While Lewis and Richardson did not testify at the same time, they touched on many of the same points.

The two men have been on opposite sides of the political battle in recent months. Lewis has endorsed a resolution by the homosexual activist group Lambda Legal supporting the legalization of same-sex marriage. Richardson, meanwhile, has been fighting in his home state of Massachusetts for a state constitutional amendment that would protect the traditional definition of marriage.

Lewis said he opposes a federal marriage amendment because it would "write discrimination into the Constitution" and would "undermine" the "civil rights" of many citizens. He added that civil unions



A continuing series from Baptist Press

should not be an option to same-sex marriage. "We have been down that road before in this country," he said. "Separate is not equal."

Richardson asserted that marriage is "about children" and not "just about adult love." He said he doesn't "disparage" other family arrangements but stressed that traditional marriage is "the ideal."

"Any time they say that the federal marriage amendment writes discrimination into the Constitution, they're also saying that traditional marriage must be abolished by courts," Richardson said, referring to lawyers who argue for same-sex marriage, "so it's not just that they want to silence us, they also want to write our values out of the Constitution, as well."

Lewis predicted that Americans one day will view same-sex marriage the same way they now view the issue of slavery and segregation. "We will look back over this debate and say, 'What was this all about?'" he said.

Rep. Barney Frank, a Massachusetts Democrat and an open homosexual, said same-sex marriage would not hinder heterosexuals. "It doesn't detract from anyone else," he said. "I have to ask, Senators, others, who are we hurting?"

Richardson, who calls himself a proud Democrat and says that an amendment

should be a bi-partisan issue, said that same-sex marriage legalization would impact society negatively. He said he no longer takes his family to the historical town of Provincetown, Mass., which is a popular meeting place for homosexuals.

"It does affect families in general when you see these other things," he said. "As much as I enjoy going to Provincetown, I had to stop going there and taking my kids [there] as a nice summer resort because of some of the things that they would see and then bring back home."

He said they would start asking questions about what they saw. "It does affect families, so you can't isolate and [then] say that it doesn't spill over into the general population," Richardson said.

John Cornyn (R.-Texas) said "activist" courts have left the public "no middle ground." Responding to those who say an amendment would write discrimination into the Constitution, Cornyn said, "[T]hey're the ones writing the American people out of constitutional democracy."

Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D.-Calif.) said the issue should be left to the states. She opposes a marriage amendment and says the Defense of Marriage Act is sufficient. She noted that DOMA has not been successfully challenged in federal court. Conservatives fear that it will be

struck down, leading to nationalized same-sex marriage.

"We need not readdress this issue with a constitutional amendment," she said.

Phyllis Bossin of the American Bar Association said her organization opposes a marriage amendment. It is premature to speculate that DOMA will be struck down, she said.

"One does not amend the Constitution on a hunch," she said.

Teresa Stanton Collett, professor at the St. Thomas University School of Law in Minnesota, argued that it is a national issue, and not a states' rights issue.

"There is legal precedent for making it a federal issue," she added, pointing to a Supreme Court ruling upholding a federal ban on polygamy. She noted that today some 20 states are being forced to defend their marriage laws in court. In addition, the Lawrence v. Texas decision striking down anti-sodomy laws could impact the same-sex marriage issue, she said.

"It is, in fact, only a matter of time before we see a federal constitutional opinion that forces same-sex marriage upon the people of the United States," said Collett, who supports a marriage amendment.

Amendment supporters pointed to court decisions in Massachusetts, Vermont and other states and asserted that a federal court eventually would rule for same-sex marriage.

Rep. Marilyn Musgrave (R.-Colo.) said there is no national outcry to redefine marriage.

"State and federal activist judges will not stop until a national marriage definition is legislated from the bench," she said. "In our country this is unacceptable. The American people deserve to have a say in this important issue."

Editor's note: For more information about the debate over same-sex marriage, visit <http://www.bpnews.net/samesex-marriage>

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